MARVEL COMICS

LATE SEPT
#439

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

HOW IS THE WEB-SPINNER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AGE of HEROES?™

WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF Mary Jane?!™

WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THE SPIDER-CYCLE?™

FIND OUT INSIDE!

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DEFALCO KAYANAN LAROSA

RAF BUD atomic

D-DO YOU REALIZE WHAT WE'VE ***FOUND*** HERE, ZACK?

THIS ARTIFACT MUST BE NEARLY A ***THOUSAND*** YEARS OLD!

WE COULD BE TALKING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY OF THE ***DECADE*** -- MAYBE EVEN THE ***CENTURY!***

ZIP IT, LANA! THIS IS NO TIME TO OVERLOAD ON ENTHUSIASM.

WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN IT OUT OF THE GROUND.

DON'T PLAY THE DOUR SCIENTIST WITH ME, ZACK!

I KNOW YOU TOO WELL.

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'LL ADMIT I'M AS EXCITED AS YOU ARE, BUT WE STILL NEED TO ESTABLISH ITS AUTHENTICITY, AND --

-- WOW!

BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

YES...

...TO THINK THIS RELIC WAS ONCE WORN BY THE ORIGINAL ***SPIDER-MAN!***

THERE ONCE WAS A SPIDER...!

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

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HISTORY REMEMBERS THE LEGENDARY WEB-SWINGER AS A ***PIVOTAL PLAYER*** IN THE ***AGE OF HEROES!***

NO STATIC! MY OLDER BROTHER WROTE HIS DOCTORAL THESIS -- AND STILL TEACHES A GRADUATE SEMINAR -- ON SPIDER-MAN'S POST-***ONSLAUGHT*** PERIOD.

RS&COMICRAFT'S LIZ AGRAPHIOTIS
LETTERS

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I'VE ALWAYS PREFERRED THE WALL-CRAWLER'S PRE-COLLEGE ERA.

REALLY?! I'M A FAN OF THE *MAXIMUM CARNAGE* PERIOD MYSELF.

Y-YOU ***CAN'T*** BE SERIOUS --!

I'M ENTITLED TO MY OPINION. ***HERE*** --! LET'S GET THAT WEB-SHOOTER INTO A STERILE GEL-PAK --

-- AND FLASH BACK TO OUR ***LAB*** ACROSS THE RIVER!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE SNARKY RUINS FOR ONE DAY.

OLD ***MANHATTAN*** WAS A GREAT CITY DURING SPIDER-MAN'S TIME.

YEAH, BUT IT WAS FILLED WITH ***CRIME, DISEASE*** AND ***POVERTY.***

HE LIVED IN A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD.

A DARKER, GRITTIER WORLD!

DID YOU NOTICE THAT ***BROWNISH STAIN*** ON THE WEB-SHOOTER?

YES, AND I HOPE THE ***SYNTHEMAX*** CAN IDENTIFY IT.

WHY?! WHAT ABOUT IT?

I WAS THINKING IT MIGHT BE...

...***SPIDER-MAN'S BLOOD!***

ARE YOU ACTUALLY SUGGESTING THAT WE FOUND THE SITE OF HIS ***FINAL BATTLE?***

I'M ONLY SAYING IT'S ***POSSIBLE!***

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A CONTROVERSY ABOUT HOW AND WHERE SPIDER-MAN ***DIED.***

AMAZING, ISN'T IT? A HISTORICAL FIGURE SO POPULAR THAT THERE ARE STILL FIVE OR SIX BOOKS PUBLISHED ABOUT HIS LIFE EVERY MONTH --

-- AND NO ONE CAN SETTLE ON HOW HE MET HIS END.

HA! TRY FINDING TWO WRITERS WHO AGREE ON HOW THE GUY'S ***SPIDER-SENSE*** WORKED.

THE SYNTHEMAX IS GOOD TO GO!

YOU KICK IT ONLINE WHILE I ACCESS THE APPROPRIATE DATA BASES.

IT SHOULDN'T TAKE THE SYNTHEMAX MORE THAN A FEW MOMENTS TO -- ***WELL, WELL!***

I BELIEVE WE HAVE A DEFINITE MATCH!

A CELEBRATION IS IN ORDER!

WE'VE DONE IT, ZACK! ALONG WITH THE ***KIRBY MUSEUM*** IN CALIFORNIA, AND THE ***DITKO INSTITUTE*** IN WISCONSIN, WE HAVE ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVING ARTIFACTS WHICH DATE ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ***AGE OF HEROES.***

NOT ONLY WAS THE ORIGINAL ***SPIDER-MAN*** A MAJOR COSTUMED CRUSADER IN HIS OWN RIGHT --

-- BUT THINK OF ALL THOSE WHO WERE INSPIRED TO FOLLOW HIS HEROIC TRADITION DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES!

THIS ANCIENT WEB-SHOOTER IS A DIRECT LINK TO A MAN WHO -- QUITE LITERALLY -- SAVED THIS WORLD ON DOZENS OF OCCASIONS!

HE WAS OBVIOUSLY A HERO OF GREAT COURAGE AND VISION!

BUT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THE *MAN* BEHIND THE MASK.

I WONDER WHAT HE WAS REALLY LIKE...

SOMETHING WRONG, TIGER?

JUST THINKING, MARY JANE...

SEEMS MORE LIKE BROODING TO ME!

YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DEFEAT CERTAIN OLD ENEMIES, THEY ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO RETURN...

AND THE NEW ONES LIKE THE BLACK TARANTULA SEEM DEADLIER AND MORE VICIOUS THAN THE LAST!

I SOMETIMES WONDER WHY I EVEN BOTHER!

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S HAVING A BAD DAY!

SETTLE *BACK*, PETER...

NO WEB-SWINGING FOR *YOU* TONIGHT!

W-WHAT IF *SPIDER-MAN* IS NEEDED OR --

TOUGH CHEESE, Mr. PARKER!

LET THE *AVENGERS* AND *FANTASTIC FOUR* EARN THEIR KEEP FOR A CHANGE. THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITHOUT YOU FOR ONE NIGHT.

TOUGH *CHEESE* --?!

HEY! I'LL SAVE THE DIRTY TALK FOR LATER. THE POINT IS YOU'VE BEEN WORKING *WAAAAY* TOO HARD --

-- AND I KNOW THE BEST WAY TO GET YOUR MIND OFF YOUR PROBLEMS!

NICE *FACE!*

YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GIRL FEEL WANTED!

S-SORRY, MARY JANE...

WHEN YOU PUSHED ME BACK, I LANDED ON THE *TV REMOTE*.

LET ME SNAP OFF THE *TELEVISION*, THEN WE CAN --

WAIT --!

I THINK YOU'D BETTER SEE THIS --!

LINDA GREICO, AGE SEVEN, IS STILL MISSING --

-- APPARENTLY LOST SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY'S SEWER SYSTEM WHERE SHE WENT TO PLAY WITH A YOUNG FRIEND!

T-THE TUNNELS STARTED FILLING WITH *WATER* --

-- AND WE GOT *SEPARATED!*

MEDIC

RES

NEWS

S-SHE'S ALL *ALONE* DOWN THERE --

-- AND SHE'S GONNA *DROWN!*

FIND HER, PETER!

I...

I'LL TRY MY BEST.

I KNOW YOU WILL.

YOU ALWAYS DO!

IT'S PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN TO EVEN IMAGINE THE SPECTACULAR LIFE HE MUST HAVE LED!

FROM ALL HISTORICAL REPORTS, ***SPIDER-MAN*** -- MORE THAN ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL -- SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN THE DIRECT CENTER OF THE ***AGE OF HEROES!***

THE X-MEN! THE AVENGERS! THE THUNDERBOLTS! EVEN ***THE FANTASTIC FOUR!*** ALL OF THEM SOUGHT HIS ASSISTANCE AND EXPERTISE ON OCCASION!

SMALL WONDER THAT HE'S STILL KNOWN ***AS THE FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD SUPER HERO.***

AND THE HONORS WHICH A GRATEFUL POPULACE SURELY HEAPED UPON HIM --

-- ONE MUST ASSUME THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FILL A ***SMALL MUSEUM!***

YOU HEARD ME THE *FIRST* TIME, WEBHEAD...

SCRAM!

POLICE

PHONE

B-BUT I JUST WANT TO HELP --!

YEAH... AND I WANNA DATE *SALMA HAYEK*... BUT THAT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN, EITHER!

BEAT IT! WE GOT NO USE FOR A MASKED FREAK LIKE YOU!

FINE! WHATEVER YOU SAY --!

I CAN TAKE A HINT!

COSTUMED SHOW-OFFS! WHO NEEDS ANY OF 'EM?!

YOU MAY NOT --

-- BUT I SUSPECT THAT MISSING GIRL WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXTRA *PAIR OF EYES!*

EVEN IF THOSE EYES ARE COVERED BY A *MASK!*

ZACK, THE SYNTHEMAX JUST KICKED OUT ITS VERDICT ON THE ***STAIN*** --!

IT IS ***BLOOD***... WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE COME FROM A ***MUTAGENICALLY ENHANCED*** INDIVIDUAL.

INTERESTING!

THAT NARROWS IT TO SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF OR ONE OF HIS MANY SUPER-POWERED FOES.

IT ALSO LENDS WEIGHT TO MY THEORY!

PERHAPS...

BUT THE FACT THAT WE FOUND THIS WEB-SHOOTER BURIED UNDERGROUND REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER WIDELY HELD BELIEF CONCERNING THE WEB-SWINGER.

YOU KNOW THE ONE I MEAN -- ***THE SECRET HEAD-QUARTERS!***

MANY OF HIS BIOGRAPHERS HAVE SPECULATED THAT SPIDER-MAN POSSESSED A VAST ***UNDERGROUND COMPLEX*** --

-- WHERE HE STORED THE MOST ADVANCED CRIMEFIGHTING EQUIPMENT OF HIS TIME!

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT OUR WEB-SHOOTER WAS SIMPLY A DISCARD?

I DON'T SCAN IT! IF WE HAD FOUND THE LEGENDARY ***SPIDER-CAVE,*** WE WOULD HAVE DISCOVERED FAR MORE RELICS.

WHERE ARE THE REMAINS OF THE FAMOUS ***SPIDER-CYCLE?*** WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS ***SPIDER-CHOPPER?!***

THEY WERE PROBABLY ***LOOTED*** -- AND STRIPPED DOWN FOR PARTS -- CENTURIES AGO.

MY GUESS WOULD BE IN THE YEARS AFTER MANHATTAN WAS ABANDONED.

NO SIGN OF THE GIRL...

OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER!

HAVE THE RESCUE WORKERS ALREADY COVERED THIS AREA --

-- OR HAS THE RISING WATER FORCED THEM TO ABANDON THEIR SEARCH?!

AT THE RATE THESE TUNNELS ARE FILLING...

...EVEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE MUCH LONGER --!

BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP!

NOT UNTIL I KNOW THAT CHILD IS SAFE!

YOU KNOW WHO I OFTEN THINK ABOUT?

HIS *WIFE!*

Ahhh, YES... THE LOVELY ***MARY JANE PARKER!***

I BELIEVE I HAVE A CLASSIC ***HOLOSCAN*** FROM HER MODELING DAYS, AND -- HERE WE GO!

SH-SHE'S ABSOLUTELY ***BREATH-TAKING!***

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HER, ANYWAY?

DEPENDS ON THE HISTORIAN! SOME CLAIM THEY DIVORCED. OTHERS SAY SHE WAS MURDERED BY ONE OF HIS ENEMIES.

ME, I PREFER THE ACCOUNTS WHICH HAVE THEM LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT ONE AUTHOR EVEN REFERRED TO Mrs. PARKER AS THE ***FIRST LADY*** OF THE HEROIC AGE.

AN INTERESTING CHOICE --

-- BUT I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE AWARDED THAT TITLE TO ***SUSAN RICHARDS*** OR ***JANET VAN DYNE.***

STILL, WHEN YOU CONSIDER SPIDER-MAN'S STATURE IN THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY, THEY MUST HAVE THROWN SOME VERY COLORFUL PARTIES!

"ONE THING'S FOR ***CERTAIN*** --

"-- MARY JANE MUST HAVE BEEN THE ENVY OF ALL HER FRIENDS!"

WONDERFUL --!

THE WATER IS SEEPING THROUGH THE CEILING, CAUSING IT TO CRUMBLE AND --

KER PLASH

WHOA! I WOULD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BENEATH THAT MESS --

-- IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE EARLY WARNING FROM MY SPIDER-SENSE!

THIS ACCESS PIPE IS THE ONLY SAFE PLACE IN THIS TUNNEL!

THE REST OF THE ROOF LOOKS LIKE IT'LL GIVE WAY ANY MINUTE.

NO SENSE KIDDING MYSELF ANY LONGER!

I FAILED!

IF THAT CHILD HASN'T BEEN FOUND BY NOW, SHE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD!

AND SO AM I IF I DON'T -- NO!

I... I CAN'T GIVE UP ON HER!

I'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING!

I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF ANOTHER CHILD!

I'LL TAKE IT A TUNNEL AT A TIME.

IF SHE ISN'T IN THE NEXT, I'LL JUST TRY ONE MORE...

WELLLL, MAYBE I'LL GO FOR TWO...

OR THREE!

OR *TWELVE!*

Uh-Oh! I SUDDENLY SENSE DANGER ABOVE ME --!

I'D BETTER SCURRY INTO THE NEXT SHAFT BEFORE THIS ENTIRE CAVERN COLLAPSES IN ON ITSELF, AND --

I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

LINDA --?!

S-STAY WHERE YOU ARE, HONEY! DON'T MOVE!

S-SPIDER-MAN --?!

A-ARE YOU GONNA SAVE ME?!

THAT'S MY PLAN, KIDDO! JUST STAY PUT UNTIL I CAN --

AWWW, NO! ***NO!***

KRAKA

QWASH

A-ARM FEELS LIKE IT'S BROKEN!

AND THIS WEB-SHOOTER IS SMASHED -- COMPLETELY TWISTED OUT OF SHAPE.

I'D BETTER DISPOSE OF IT BEFORE IT ACCIDENTALLY PIERCES A VEIN!

Y-YOU ALL RIGHT, SPIDEY --?!

YEAH... JUST FINE!

W-WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

T-THE WATER'S STARTING TO COME OVER THE LEDGE!

TAKE IT *EASY*, HONEY!
I PROMISE TO *GET* YOU OUT OF HERE!
B-BUT HOW --?!
Y-YOU ONLY GOT ONE ARM!
I'M NOT GOING TO *LEAVE* YOU BEHIND... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
I CAN WEB YOU TO MY BACK, AND CLIMB UP THE SIDE OF THE WALL!
R-REALLY?
T-THAT SOUNDS COOL!
THAT'S IF THIS WALL CAN SUPPORT THE TWO OF US --!
HEY! I HAVE AN EVEN BETTER IDEA --!
W-WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THAT LADDER?!
Y-YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY REACH IT FROM HERE... *CAN YOU?!*
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
COME ON --! YOU NEED TO BE FITTED FOR A *WEB-SUIT!*
B-BUT...
I'M SCARED!
THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING AFRAID, LINDA.
EVERYBODY EXPERIENCES FEAR AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.
YOU JUST CAN'T LET IT PREVENT YOU FROM DOING WHAT'S RIGHT!
YOU READY TO QUIT THIS PLACE?
Uhhhh... SURE!

STAND STILL! I'M GOING TO START BY INSULATING YOU WITHIN A THIN STRAND OF WEBBING!

I-IT TICKLES!

THIS LIQUID ADHESIVE WILL SEAL ALL THE CRACKSAND PREVENT ANY WATER FROM REACHING YOU.

W-WATER --?!

Y-YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WATER!

YES!

DO YOU TRUST ME, LINDA?

GOOD! NOW TAKE A DEEP BREATH, AND GET READY --!

D-DID WE MAKE IT --?!

WE SURE *DID!*

HANG IN THERE, LITTLE LADY!

Y-YOU'LL BE HOME BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

J-JUST GOTTA CLIMB ONE RUNG AT A TIME!

HERE! I'LL CRACK YOU FREE OF THAT COCOON, AND --

LOOK! IT'S *SPIDER-MAN,* AND HE'S GOT THE *KID!*

H-HE PROBABLY HAD HER ALL THE TIME --!

SOMEBODY *GRAB* THAT COSTUMED FREAK --!

WAIT --! Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

Ahhh --! WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?!

THAT BLOOD SAMPLE, LANA...

...IS THERE ANY CHANCE IT CAN BE...

...*REPLICATED?*

ZACK! ARE YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING --?!

WHY ***NOT?!***

IT'S BEEN A FEW HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THIS WORLD HAD ITS LAST ***SUPER HERO.***

A NEW ***MILLENNIUM*** IS APPROACHING!

MAYBE IT'S ALSO TIME FOR A NEW AGE OF ***HEROES...***

AND I COULD FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREATEST ***COSTUMED CRUSADER*** OF ALL!

"THINK OF IT, LANA...

"...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

"...THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS NEED ***HEROES!***

"AS WELL AS THOSE --

CHIEF 666

"-- WHO ***BELIEVE*** IN THEM!"

Shadowcat